

Purposes of Accreditation (Source unknown)

When respondents were asked to identify the purposes of accreditation, more than half of those interviewed said that each of the seven purposes read to them was a reason for the accreditation process.

- More than eight in ten cited having degrees recognized for admission to graduate school (85 percent), guaranteeing the quality of the education offered (83 percent), and certifying to employers that degrees are valid (82 percent) as purposes of accreditation. Almost 80 percent cited qualifying for government funding and three-quarters said allowing students to transfer credits from one college or university to another were purposes for accreditation.

Other highlights of responses to the question of the purposes of accreditation include:

- Higher-income respondents (\$50,000 or more) were significantly more likely than those with lower incomes (under \$15,000) to cite certifying to employers that degrees are valid (87 percent vs. 68 percent) as a reason for accreditation.
- Those who had attended college were more likely than non-attendees to say that the purposes of accreditation did not include protecting students from fraud and abuse (31 percent vs. 20 percent) and ensuring that colleges and universities are well maintained (27 percent vs. 16 percent).

